GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2436
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
NEW AIRCRAFT TO GULF COUNTRIES
Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increase in the number of passengers from Gulf countries to India particularly to Kerala during festival seasons;

(b) if so, whether the existing availability of seats in Air India/Indian Airlines in this sector are inadequate to carry the increased number of passengers during festival season;

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering introducing new aircraft during the festival season to overcome the crisis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a),(b),(c),(d) and (e): Kerala and Gulf cities are connected with air services of Air India, Indian Airlines and Air India Express and the Gulf carriers namely Emirates, Etihad Airways, Air Arabia, Oman Air, Gulf Air, Qatar Airways, Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways. Over the last few years, the national carriers have been increasing capacity on India-Gulf route including Kerala-Gulf destinations and have plans to further augment frequencies on these routes. The airlines monitor the demand for capacity on the India-Gulf routes and endeavour to operate additional flights to cater to the peak season demand subject to availability of resources. As in earlier years, during peak and festival seasons, the national carrier plans to upgrade the aircraft type and/or operate extra section flights to meet the increase in demand. Further, Government of India has a policy to allow foreign carriers to upgrade aircraft type and/or operate extra section flights to meet the increase in seasonal demand.